

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Headwaters Forest Reserve Newsletter

Spring 2008

Dear Friends of Headwaters Forest Reserve

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on projects completed in 2007 and projects planned this summer. All projects in both 2007 & 2008 are consistent with the guidelines identified in the Resource Management Plan (June 2004).

In 2007, approximately 3/4 miles of legacy roads and five stream crossings were decommissioned in the Salmon Creek watershed. In the Elk River corridor, seven culverts were replaced and 1.1 miles of Elk River Trail were paved to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The complete list of projects planned for 2008 are outlined below.

Elk River Corridor Projects (north end)

Elk River Trail Closures

During reconstruction and restoration, the BLM will close the Elk River Trail and parking lot due to congestion caused by construction activities. We estimate that renovation and restoration activities will take approximately six weeks. We anticipate the Elk River Trailhead and parking lot will be closed to the public for approximately four weeks. Renovation of the parking lot and watershed restoration work will likely commence in mid-July. The BLM will ensure the Elk River Trail closure will be kept to the shortest time frame possible. We will update closure time periods in local newspapers, on our website and at Headwaters access points. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Arcata Field Office.



Restoration Efforts

Parking Lot Improvements

The existing parking lot will be reshaped and surfaced with “eco-friendly” permeable pavers. This pavement alternative will filter rain water, allow plants to grow inside each paver and provide a universally accessible hardened surface to connect with the Elk River Trail. An emergency phone will be installed to enhance public safety.

Bridge Removal

The BLM is planning to remove a rusted flat-car bridge and associated fill in the South Fork Elk River. This project will re-establish the natural stream channel and reduce the amount of sediment entering the South Fork Elk River.

Watershed Restoration Activities

Watershed restoration activities along the Elk River Trail will include the removal of a large culvert and associated fill from the stream channel approximately 1.2 miles from the trailhead. A bridge will be installed at this site which will re-establish the natural creek channel. Additional culverts beyond the one mile mark may be removed and trail improvements will continue depending on funding.



BLM

Train Barn Construction

In May, the Falk train barn will be moved and reconstructed along the Elk River Trail. To assure the public’s safety, portions of Elk River Trail will be closed when cable operations are moving the remnants of the barn across the river. We will be converting this historic structure into an interpretive exhibit and education facility.



Future Train Barn Site

Landslide Assessment

The large landslide will be assessed to determine if mitigation measures can be implemented to stabilize the slide and/or reduce the discharge of fine sediment into the Elk River.

Humboldt State University (HSU) Cooperative

Archaeological testing will be completed through a cooperative agreement between the BLM and HSU’s Department of Anthropology. Archaeology students will recover, analyze, and report on historic artifacts.

Environmental Education

Approximately 340 local elementary students will participate in the guided Headwaters Habitat and Home field trips. Curriculum includes studying the local history of Falk, analyzing historical artifacts and the unique ecosystems of Headwaters.



Students with Archaeologist

Salmon Pass Projects (south end)

Forest Restoration

Forest thinning using of dense plantations will occur on 200 acres in the Elk Head Springs and Alicia Pass areas. Removing suppressed, small diameter vegetation using lop and scatter methods offers one of the best opportunities for wildlife habitat enhancement by accelerating the development of mature forest conditions.

Salmon Creek Loop Trail

In cooperation with the California Conservation Corps, the BLM will complete construction of one mile of the Salmon Creek Loop trail which will be accessible from the Salmon Pass Loop Trail.

Road Decommissioning

Culvert removal, road decommissioning and tree planting will continue in the Salmon Creek watershed. The work will be completed in partnership with Pacific Fish, Wildlife & Wetlands Restoration Association with funding provided by the California Department of Fish and Game and BLM.

Guided Tours

The Salmon Pass access into the Headwaters will not be affected by restoration and renovation activities. Guided tours are available May 15th - November 15th (weather permitting). Please contact the Arcata Field Office to make reservations.



Bureau of Land Management
Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 825-2300